

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
February 4, 2024 **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“True religion is real living; living with all one's soul, with all one's goodness and righteousness.” Albert Einstein

PRELUDE

GATHERING Words of welcome and announcements

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)**

People of God, welcome! Surely God is in this place!

We come to worship and to rest in God's presence.

Breathe deep for the goodness of God surrounds us.

The Holy One who sustains the universe is near.

When we are tired, worn down, and carrying heavy burdens, God is with us.

God strengthens us that we might help carry one another's burdens.

So, let us join together in wonder and thanksgiving for God's love that lifts us up on wings like eagles.

Thanks be to God! Amen.



And he went throughout
Galilee, proclaiming
the message...

MARK 1:39, NRSV

*OPENING HYMN

“Praise to the Lord”

(UMH # 139)

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation.
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigning bears
thee on eagles wings, e'er in his keeping maintaining.
God's care enfolds all, whose true good he upholds.
Hast thou not known his sustaining?
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, who with his love doth befriend thee.

4. Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish they life and restore thee,
fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee. Then to thy need God as a
mother doth speed, spreading the wings of grace o'er thee.

5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly forever adore him.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Eternal God, Creator of the universe...and then some. We call on you, you who greet us here. We give you thanks for making it possible to gather, and to ponder your eternal mysteries. Make us, creatures of this time and space, ready collaborators with your endless grace. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us lift our prayers in thoughts of praise.

SILENT PRAYER

We praise Jesus for His act of salvation.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 40:28-31

Don't you know? Haven't you heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He doesn't grow tired or weary. His understanding is beyond human reach, giving power to the tired and reviving the exhausted. Youths will become tired and weary, young men will certainly stumble; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength; they will fly up on wings like eagles; they will run and not be tired; they will walk and not be weary.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

We pray for confidence to share your word with others and for the opportunity to proclaim it. Forgive our reluctance, our timidity. We pray for wisdom to know what should be said and the moment in which to say it. Forgive our reticence, our anxiety. We pray for knowledge of the fullness of your Grace and the willingness to live it.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:29-39(CEB)

After leaving the synagogue, Jesus, James, and John went home with Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed, sick with a fever, and they told Jesus about her at once. He went to her, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her, and she served them.

That evening, at sunset, people brought to Jesus those who were sick or demon possessed. The whole town gathered near the door. He healed many who were sick with all kinds of diseases, and he threw out many demons. But he didn't let the demons speak because they recognized him.

Early in the morning, well before sunrise, Jesus rose and went to a deserted place where he could be alone in prayer. Simon and those with him tracked him down. When they found him, they told him, "Everyone's looking for you!"

He replied, "Let's head in the other direction, to the nearby villages, so that I can preach there too. That's why I've come." He traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and throwing out demons.

A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

MESSAGE

"A Time to Pray"
Rev. Terry McDorman

HYMN

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

(UMH # 474)

1. Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light: Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.

2. When my way grows drear, precious Lord linger near, when my life is almost
gone, hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.

3. When the darkness appears and the night draws near, and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.

INVITATION TO SHARE

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

(UMH # 94)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

God of power and patience, we gather in worship to wait on your presence and to

be filled with your power. Jesus healed with a touch and taught us that you are the source of the true healing that can make us whole. As we take time now in worship to offer our gifts to you, we pray that they might be used to bring healing: of body, of spirit, of broken relationships; healing of a planet that is groaning under our carelessness and greed; healing of a world community that is deeply divided by distrust and self-interest. We pray this in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

(Please rise as you are able and join in the signing of our "Great Thanksgiving." The words are on the monitor. The accompanist will provide an intro.)

COMMUNION INVITATION

You are invited to come forward to receive the elements, taking a piece of bread and dipping into the juice. Please let the usher know if you require assistance and we shall bring the elements to you.

HOLY COMMUNION

A MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

O God, we are gathered here under the shelter of your wings, nurtured by your motherly love, and encouraged, then, to fly by faith on the wind of your spirit. You have spoken to us, saying "They that wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles." Teach us how to wait, then, that we may learn how to fly. May this nest we call "family" be built with sturdy materials. Don't let us forget, though, that this nest was not created as a fortress behind which to hide, but as a perch from which to take off. And strengthen us with the assurance that we do not fly alone. This we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" (UMH # 103)**

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might; thy justice like mountains high soaring above thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small; in all life thou livest, the true life of all; we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree, and wither and perish, but naught

changeth thee.

4. Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light; thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight; all laud we would render: O help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

All are invited to sit and reflect during the Postlude

**Please rise as you are able*

Special thankyou's to all those that assisted with worship today.

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 47

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

Be certain to check the church website, <https://maconilumc.net/> for updated information about the church, events and news. Please use webmaster.maconumc@gmail.com to submit updates or additions to the church website.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE--February 14 at 6pm in the sanctuary

LENTEN STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Adult Sunday School: (Sunday mornings at 9:00am in Fellowship Hall) the class will be exploring "Jesus and the Outsiders and Outcasts" by Adam Hamilton. Starts February 18, 2024.

PASTRY WITH THE PASTOR

Held on Tuesday mornings from 9:30-10:30 starting February 20, 2024, and concluding on March 26, 2024. This group will explore "Seven Words, Listening to Christ from the Cross" by Susan Robb

CELEBRATION 165 SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024

Be certain to mark your calendars and spread the word, as it will be a special day indeed. Worship will be led by Bishop Frank Beard. It is also Palm Sunday and there will be a catered celebration meal and fellowship immediately following worship. Please plan on attending and bringing anyone you know that has been a part of this church through the years.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please contact Brad Roush to volunteer There are tasks big and small to choose from. Many hands are needed. to help with the 165th anniversary celebration. We need all hands-on deck to make it a rousing success.

OLD NECKTIES NEEDED

Thank you to those that have donated, and we still need more. As you clean out your closets etc., please gather up those hardly ever used neckties and bring them to church where they will be used in a mission project. Give them to Henry Moyer or just place on the pastor's desk.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun Feb 11 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Feb 11 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Wed. Feb 14 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service in Sanctuary
Sun Feb 18 7:00 am UMM Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
Sun Feb 18 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Feb 18 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun Feb 25 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Feb 25 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

MISSIONS



Items requested by the food pantry are: Any kind of soup, any kind of cereal and/or oatmeal, canned fruit, macaroni and cheese; toilet paper and shampoo. Cash donations are always welcome.

CHURCH BENCH

We are still in need of **FIVE POUNDS** of plastic caps to purchase a bench for outside the church. This will be made of recycled plastic. Please donate caps whenever possible.